DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 379 684 CS 214 757

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TITLE	Children's Literature: An Issues Approach. Third Edition.
REPORT NO	ISBN-0-8013-0537-3
PUB DATE	95
NOTE	512p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Addison-Wesley Longman, 1 Jacob Way, Reading, MA 01867 ($25.56).
PUB TYPE	Guides - Classroom Use - Teaching Guides (For Teacher) (052) -- Reference Materials - Bibliographies (131) -- Books (010)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Adoption; Annotated Bibliographies; *Childrens Literature; *Controversial Issues (Course Content); Divorce; Elementary Education; Family (Sociological Unit); Junior High Schools; *Reading Material Selection; *Recreational Reading; Sex Role; Sexuality; Special Needs Students; *Thematic Approach; War
IDENTIFIERS	*Controversial Topics

ABSTRACT

Introducing children from kindergarten through junior high school to the joy and benefits of reading, this book examines children's literature and its treatment of important, sometimes controversial issues. Focusing on the personal and societal concerns of today's youth--including sexuality, divorce, heritage, abuse, and death--the book offers practical suggestions for using books to help children successfully confront these matters. Each chapter in the book includes suggested criteria, discussion of children's books, references, resources, and an annotated bibliography. After an introduction, chapters in the book are: (1) Siblings; (2) Adoption and Foster Care; (3) Divorce; (4) Family Constellations; (5) Sexuality; (6) Aging; (7) Death; (8) Gender Roles; (9) Heritage; (10) Special Needs; (11) Abuse; and (12) War and Peace. Appendixes present 102 resources for teaching a literature-based curriculum, 101 additional references for the study of children's literature, 53 activities for extending literature, selected childrens' book awards, and publishers' addresses. (RS)

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